

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 126408
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 SSM-03 SP-02 INR-10 L-03
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DRAFTED BY HA:JCHAVCHAVADZE:LGS
APPROVED BY HA:JLCARLIN
HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN (INFO)
ARA/ECA:JBUMPUS
HA/ORM:GLWARREN,JR.

-----020668 181856Z /43

P 181829Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126408

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: STATUS OF ICEM IN RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM.
REF: BUENOS AIRES 3727

1. RE LETTER OF MAY 3 FROM HARQUINDEGUY THANKING USG FOR
PAROLE PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES AND NOTING THAT GOA WILL NOT
ACCEPT UNHCR PARTICIPATION IN RESETTLEMENT OF ARGENTINE
CITIZENS TO OTHER COUNTRIES, WE DOUBT THAT REFERENCE TO
UNHCR WAS IN ERROR. IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO INVOLVE
UNHCR IN RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM. PERSONS IN DETENTION IN
THEIR OWN COUNTRIES ARE NOT WITHIN THE UNHCR MANDATE AS
EMBASSY KNOWS, BUT THIS MAY NOT BE CLEAR TO ARGENTINE
OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH REFUGEE/DETAINEE MATTERS.

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2. WE HEARTILY SUPPORT YOUR JOINT APPROACH TO ICEM AND GOA
WITH OTHER CONCERNED EMBASSIES.

3. NOW THAT YOUR EFFORTS TO ENGAGE THE INTERNATIONAL COM-
MUNITY HAVE BEEN SO FRUITFUL, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EMBASSY
NO LONGER TAKE THE LEAD WITH ICEM/GOA NEGOTIATIONS. ICEM

COULD USE SUCH ACTION AS BASIS FOR A REQUEST FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN US FUNDING. WE BELIEVE FIRMLY THAT ALL ICEM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ASSUME A PROPORTIONAL SHARE OF THE FINANCIAL BURDEN, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THIS PROGRAM.

4. MISSION GENEVA INFORMED US TODAY THAT ICEM BUENOS AIRES DIRECTOR IS OUT OF TOWN AND NOT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA.

5. RE: PARA 3 OF REFTTEL, IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT AT THIS CRITICAL POINT WHEN GOA WISHES TO DISCUSS WITH ICEM ITS RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM THAT THE KEY ELEMENT IS MISSING. NOW THAT THERE IS MOMENTUM TO GET THE PROGRAM UNDERWAY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ICEM HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA SHOULD BE ADVISED OF OUR CONCERN OVER THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT. VANCE

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